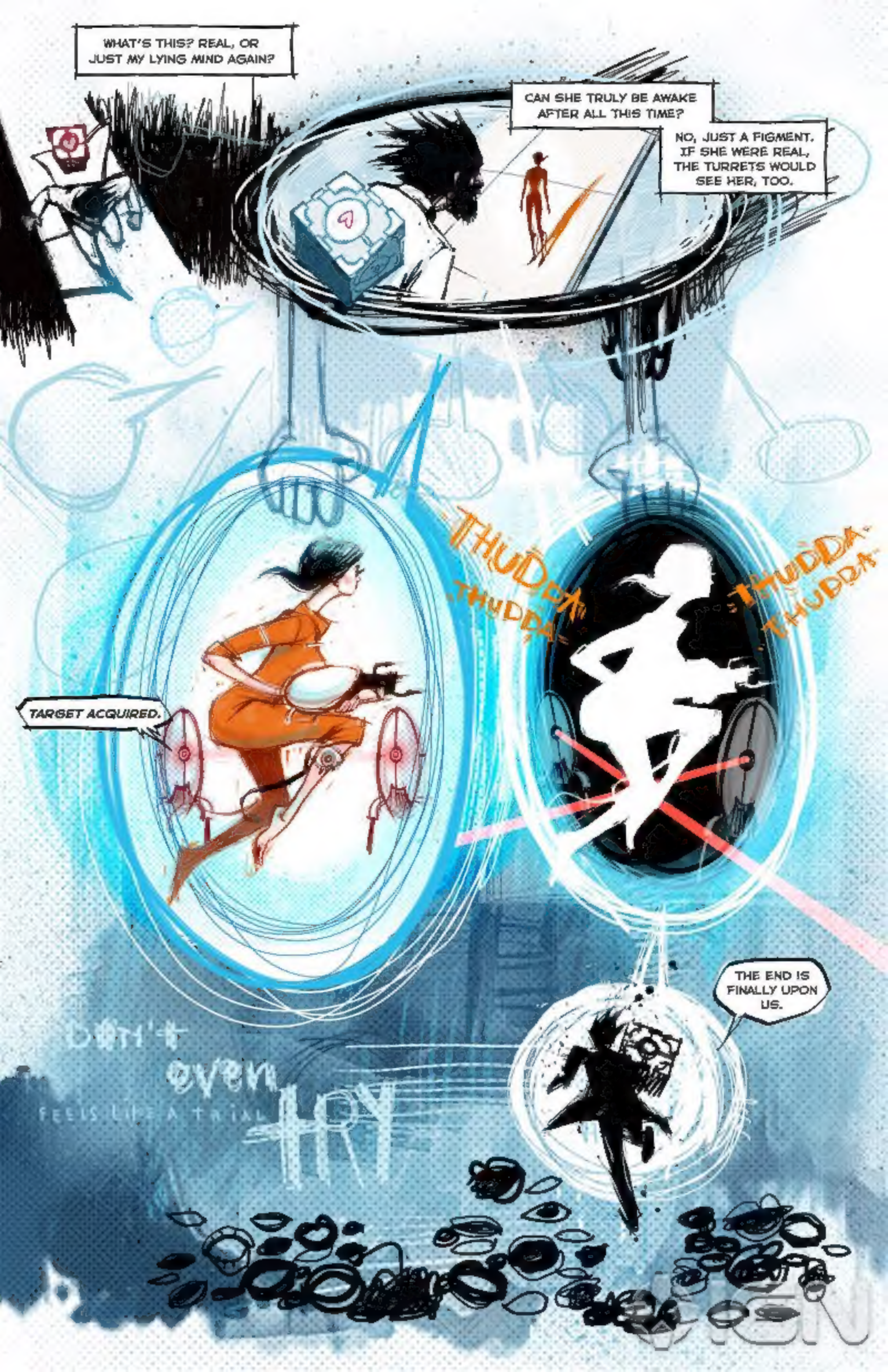
PORTAL 2:

LAB RAT

REALITY IS A STORY THE MIND TELLS ITSELF.
AN ARTIFICIAL STRUCTURE CONJURED INTO BEING BY THE CALCIUM ION EXCHANGE OF A MILLION SYNAPTIC FIRINGS.
A TRUTH SO STRANGE IT CAN ONLY BE LIED INTO EXISTENCE.
AND OUR MINDS CAN LIE. NEVER DOUBT IT...
HEAR THE TURRET FOR IT IS KNELL
TENACITY
BELL
SUMMONS
OR TO HELL


WHAT'S THIS? REAL, OR JUST MY LYING MIND AGAIN?
CAN SHE TRULY BE AWAKE AFTER ALL THIS TIME?
NO, JUST A FIGMENT. IF SHE WERE REAL, THE TURRETS WOULD SEE HER, TOO.
THUDDA
THUDDA
THUDDA
THUDDA
TARGET ACQUIRED.
THE END IS FINALLY UPON US.
DON'T
OVEN
FEELS LIKE A TRIAL

EMPLOYEES ONLY
DO NOT OPEN
FOR THE END TIMES
DON'T DO IT!
I HAVE TO. PLEASE TRY TO UNDERSTAND.

WE PUT CAMERAS IN THE CAMERAS.
HE'LL NEVER SUSPECT.
GENIUS!
Ziaprazidone
Antipsychotic me
Prescription: Doug
THE CUBE ROOT OF TWO X IS IRRATIONAL IF X IS IRRATIONAL.
C'MON, YOU DON'T NEED THOSE ANYMORE. YOU'RE FINE.
IT'S BEEN SO LONG. I'VE BEEN SAVING THESE LAST TWO FOR THIS DAY.
I'M GOING TO NEED A CLEAR HEAD FOR WHAT IS TO COME.
THIS WILL BE THE END OF US.
gulp gulp

THERE ARE MOMENTS WHEN I CAN ALMOST SEE THE UNDERLYING GRAMMAR OF THIS PLACE.
AN IMPOSSIBILITY, SOME MAD ARCHITECT'S OPUS– A RELIC FROM AN AGE THAT NEVER COULD HAVE BEEN.
IT'S A METASTASIZED AMALGAM OF ADD-ONS, ADDITIONS AND APPROPRIATIONS. BUILDING ITSELF OUT OF ITSELF.
BEAUTIFUL AND TERRIBLE–
AND LIKE ANYTHING CLONED FROM A CANCER CELL, PROBABLY IMMORTAL.

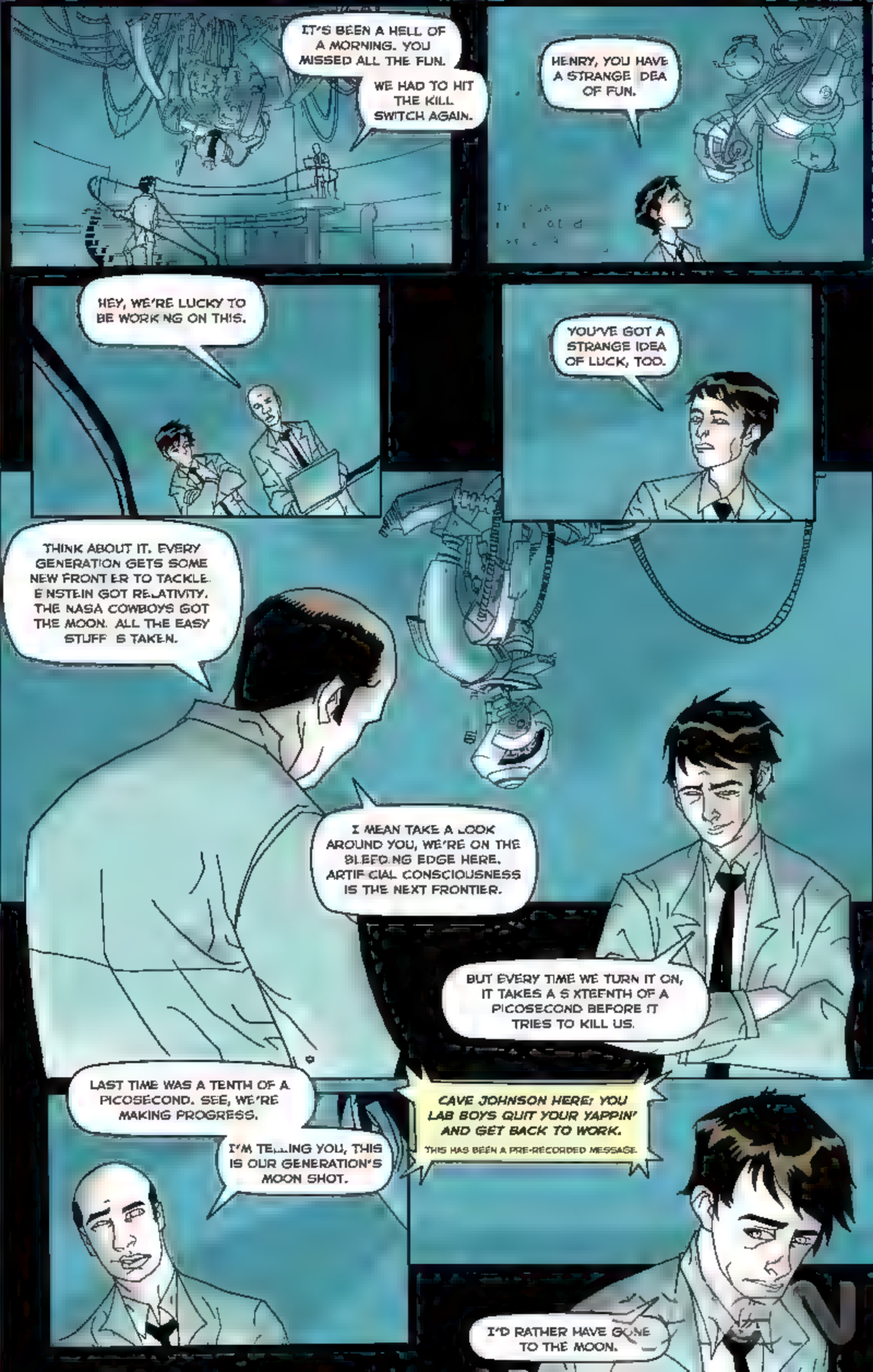
REQUIRED
SAFETY GOGGLES & STEEL-TOE BOOTS
APERTURE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR EYE OR TOE DAMAGE
STAY TO THE RIGHT! TURRETS AHEAD ON YOUR LEFT.
WHATEVER YOU SAY.

ANOTHER MURAL TO MARK THE OCCASION.
WHERE IS THE GIRL NOW?
ON HER WAY INTO THE FINAL CHAMBER.
YOU MEAN WITH... HER?
PERSONNEL

SHE DOESN'T HAVE A CHANCE.
PERSONNEL
OH, SHE HAS MORE OF A CHANCE THAN YOU THINK.
Chell
AHHH!
EEEEE!
IGN

Dear Guest in Lieu of
We should have
Science asked you as
a research volunteer,
and would appreciate
a polite response if
you were unwilling
At that, Subject re-
fused to answer.
APERTURE
WHAT WAS THAT?
ARE YOU OKAY?
THE ROOM SHOOK ITSELF TO PIECES.
LIKE AN UNBALANCED CENTRIFUGE.
I HEARD AN EXPLOSION. WHAT COULD IT MEAN?

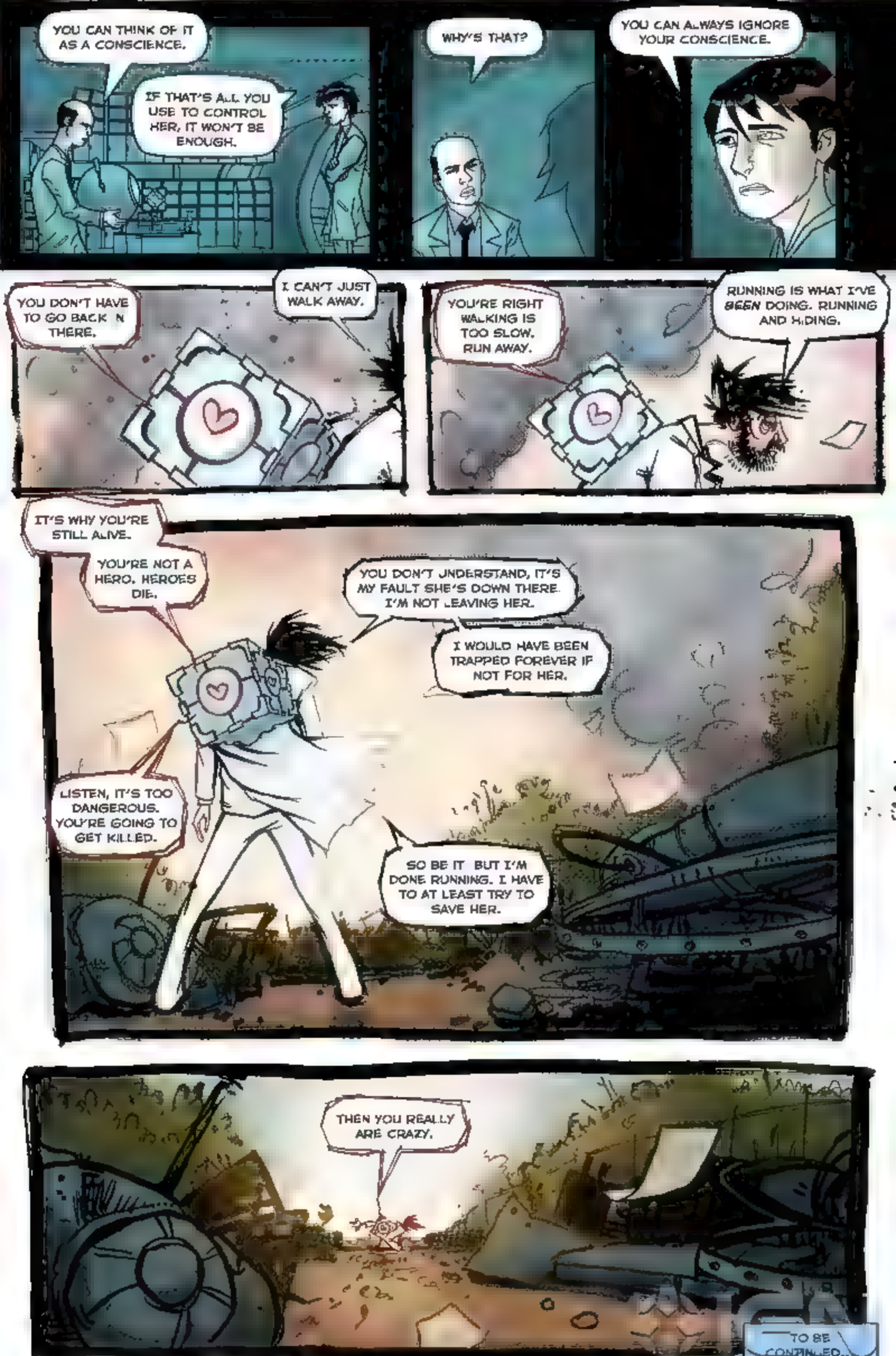
ONLY ONE THING IT CAN MEAN.
SHE DID IT.
IT'S OVER.
THE ULTIMATE SYSTEMS CRASH.


IT'S BEEN A HELL OF A MORNING. YOU MISSED ALL THE FUN.
WE HAD TO HIT THE KILL SWITCH AGAIN.
HENRY, YOU HAVE A STRANGE IDEA OF FUN.
HEY, WE'RE LUCKY TO BE WORKING ON THIS.
YOU'VE GOT A STRANGE IDEA OF LUCK, TOO.
THINK ABOUT IT. EVERY GENERATION GETS SOME NEW FRONTIER TO TACKLE. EINSTEIN GOT RELATIVITY. THE NASA COWBOYS GOT THE MOON. ALL THE EASY STUFF IS TAKEN.
I MEAN TAKE A LOOK AROUND YOU, WE'RE ON THE BLEEDING EDGE HERE. ARTIFICIAL CONSCIOUSNESS IS THE NEXT FRONTIER.
BUT EVERY TIME WE TURN IT ON, IT TAKES A SIXTEENTH OF A PICOSECOND BEFORE IT TRIES TO KILL US.
LAST TIME WAS A TENTH OF A PICOSECOND. SEE, WE'RE MAKING PROGRESS.
I'M TELLING YOU, THIS IS OUR GENERATION'S MOON SHOT.
CAVE JOHNSON HERE: YOU LAB BOYS QUIT YOUR YAPPIN' AND GET BACK TO WORK.
THIS HAS BEEN A PRE-RECORDED MESSAGE.
I'D RATHER HAVE GONE TO THE MOON.

WHERE'S THE GIRL? SHE DIDN'T STAY TO CHECK OUT HER HANDIWORK?
SHE MUST HAVE GOTTEN OUT. PROBABLY ON THE SURFACE, SOAKING UP SOME SUN.
I'M SURE YOU'RE RIGHT.
WHAT IS THIS "SUN" OF WHICH YOU SPEAK?
AND SHE HAS THE RIGHT IDEA. COME ON, WE'RE WASTING DAYLIGHT.
WATCH OUT FOR THE TURRETS. THE QUEEN MAY BE DEAD, BUT THIS HORNET'S NEST HAS BEEN KICKED.

EXIT
FREEDOM!
MY EYES! MY EYES!
SHH, I HEAR SOMETHING.
QUICK, GET DOWN BEFORE IT SEES YOU!
SSSSHHHKKK...

NO!
IT'S DRAGGING HER BACK INSIDE.
HEY, DOUG, CAN I GET A HAND HERE?
H.E.V.
UH, SURE.
JUST REACH INSIDE PAST ALL THOSE GEARS AND TURN ON THE POWER SUPPLY.
WAIT A SEC., SAFETY FIRST. ARE YOU RIGHT HANDED OR LEFT?
RIGHT.
BETTER USE YOUR LEFT THEN.
WHY?
FIRST AID
JUST IN CASE.
WHAT IS THAT THING, ANYWAY?
JUST THE LATEST IN AI INHIBITION TECHNOLOGY.

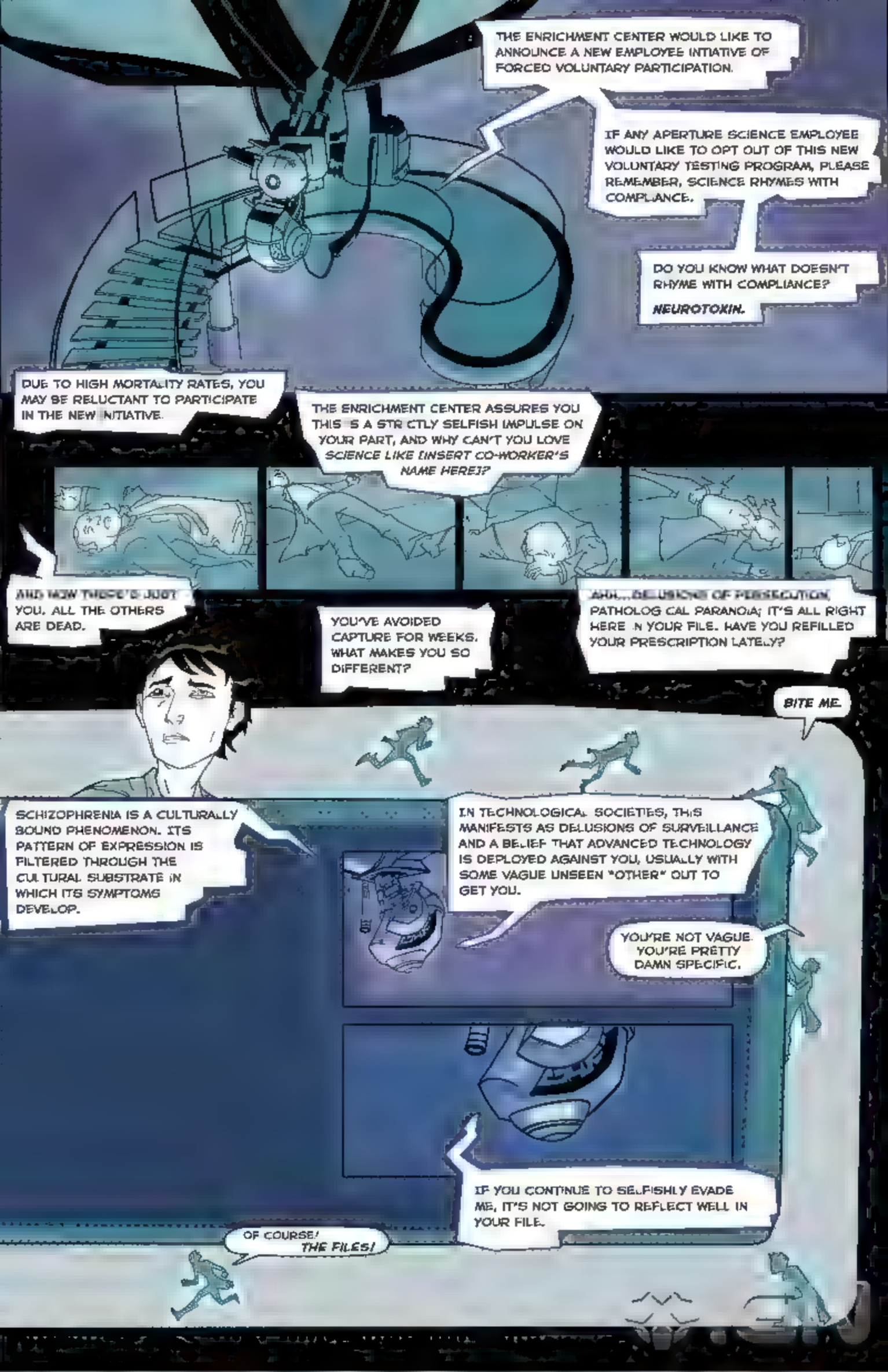

YOU CAN THINK OF IT AS A CONSCIENCE.
IF THAT'S ALL YOU USE TO CONTROL HER, IT WON'T BE ENOUGH.
WHY'S THAT?
YOU CAN ALWAYS IGNORE YOUR CONSCIENCE.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO BACK IN THERE.
I CAN'T JUST WALK AWAY.
YOU'RE RIGHT WALKING IS TOO SLOW. RUN AWAY.
RUNNING IS WHAT I'VE BEEN DOING. RUNNING AND HIDING.
IT'S WHY YOU'RE STILL ALIVE.
YOU'RE NOT A HERO. HEROES DIE.
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, IT'S MY FAULT SHE'S DOWN THERE. I'M NOT LEAVING HER.
I WOULD HAVE BEEN TRAPPED FOREVER IF NOT FOR HER.
LISTEN, IT'S TOO DANGEROUS. YOU'RE GOING TO GET KILLED.
SO BE IT. BUT I'M DONE RUNNING. I HAVE TO AT LEAST TRY TO SAVE HER.
THEN YOU REALLY ARE CRAZY.
TO BE CONTINUED...

I'M NOT FEELING SO GOOD. THOSE PILLS YOU TOOK...
I THINK THE MEDICINE IS STARTING TO WORK
SOON YOU WON'T NEED ME ANYMORE
I'LL ALWAYS NEED YOU.
NO.
THEY'VE ALREADY PUT HER IN LONG-TERM RELAXATION/

I NEED TO GET UP TO CRYO-CONTROL, BUT TURRETS BLOCK THE WAY.
HER CRYO-CHAMBER..
SOMETHING'S WRONG.
LIFE SUPPORT HAS BEEN COMPROMISED. THE EXPLOSION BLEW THE MAIN GRID. HER CHAMBER IS OFF-LINE.
ALL THE CRYO-CHAMBERS ARE OFF-LINE!

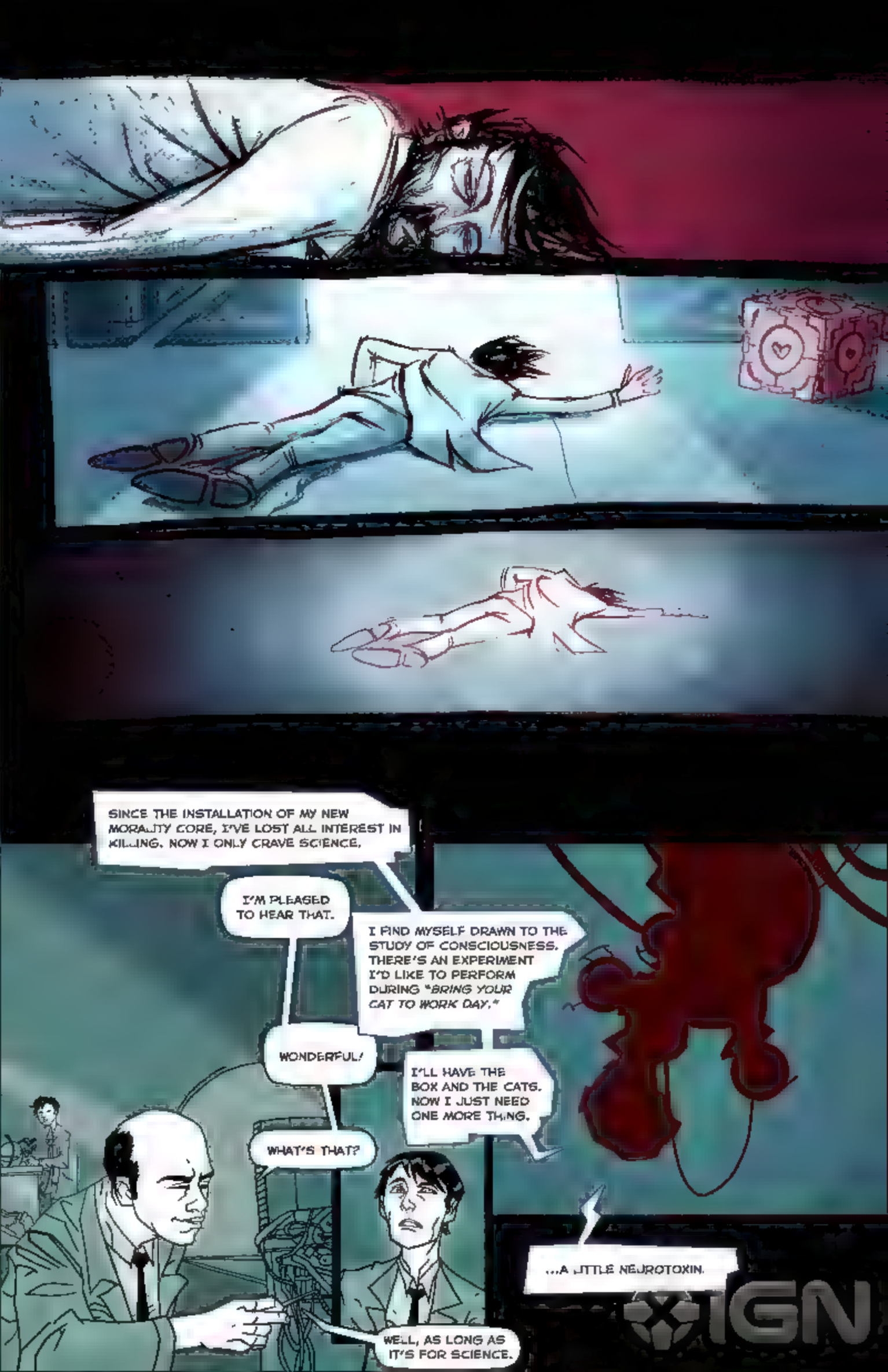
I'M ONLY GONNA GET ONE CHANCE.
I HAVE TO CROSS THE ROOM...
GET PAST THE TURRETS,
JUMP THE RAIL
...THEN DIVE LEFT OR RIGHT TO AVOID BEING SHOT.
OKAY, DO I DIVE LEFT OR RIGHT?
HELLO?
YOU STILL BACK THERE?
LEFT OR RIGHT? DON'T MAKE ME GUESS!
I'M RUNNING OUT OF TIME.
WELL, READY OR NOT...

MUST.
STAY.
CONSCIOUS.


THE ENRICHMENT CENTER WOULD LIKE TO ANNOUNCE A NEW EMPLOYEE INITIATIVE OF FORCED VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION.
IF ANY APERTURE SCIENCE EMPLOYEE WOULD LIKE TO OPT OUT OF THIS NEW VOLUNTARY TESTING PROGRAM, PLEASE REMEMBER, SCIENCE RHYMES WITH COMPLIANCE.
DO YOU KNOW WHAT DOESN'T RHYME WITH COMPLIANCE?
NEUROTOXIN.
DUE TO HIGH MORTALITY RATES, YOU MAY BE RELUCTANT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE NEW INITIATIVE.
THE ENRICHMENT CENTER ASSURES YOU THIS IS A STRICTLY SELFISH IMPULSE ON YOUR PART, AND WHY CAN'T YOU LOVE SCIENCE LIKE [INSERT CO-WORKER'S NAME HERE]?
AND NOW THERE'S JUST YOU. ALL THE OTHERS ARE DEAD.
YOU'VE AVOIDED CAPTURE FOR WEEKS. WHAT MAKES YOU SO DIFFERENT?
AND... DELUSIONS OF PERSECUTION, PATHOLOGICAL PARANOIA; IT'S ALL RIGHT HERE IN YOUR FILE. HAVE YOU REFILLED YOUR PRESCRIPTION LATELY?
BITE ME.
SCHIZOPHRENIA IS A CULTURALLY BOUND PHENOMENON. ITS PATTERN OF EXPRESSION IS FILTERED THROUGH THE CULTURAL SUBSTRATE IN WHICH ITS SYMPTOMS DEVELOP.
IN TECHNOLOGICAL SOCIETIES, THIS MANIFESTS AS DELUSIONS OF SURVEILLANCE AND A BELIEF THAT ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY IS DEPLOYED AGAINST YOU, USUALLY WITH SOME VAGUE UNSEEN "OTHER" OUT TO GET YOU.
YOU'RE NOT VAGUE. YOU'RE PRETTY DAMN SPECIFIC.
IF YOU CONTINUE TO SELFISHLY EVADE ME, IT'S NOT GOING TO REFLECT WELL IN YOUR FILE.
OF COURSE! THE FILES!

I CAN'T SEE YOU, BUT I KNOW YOU'RE IN THERE. IS IT JUST COINCIDENCE THAT YOU'VE BEEN DIAGNOSED WITH SCHIZOPHRENIA AND NOW BELIEVE A HOMICIDAL COMPUTER IS OUT TO GET YOU?
COME ON, HOW LIKELY IS THAT?
I MEAN REALLY, YOU'RE A SCIENTIST.
WHAT IS MORE LIKELY, THAT YOU'RE BEING CHASED BY A HOMICIDAL COMPUTER, OR THAT THIS IS ALL JUST THE PARANOID DELUSION OF AN UNSTABLE MIND?
WHY NOT COME OUT OF THERE, AND YOU'LL SEE. NONE OF THIS IS REAL.
I'D ASK YOU TO THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX ON THIS, BUT IT'S OBVIOUS YOUR BOX IS BROKEN. AND HAS SCHIZOPHRENIA.
SPEAKING OF BOXES...
DO YOU KNOW THAT THOUGHT EXPERIMENT WITH THE CAT IN THE BOX WITH THE POISON? THEORY REQUIRES THE CAT BE BOTH ALIVE AND DEAD UNTIL OBSERVED.
WELL, I ACTUALLY PERFORMED THE EXPERIMENT DOZENS OF TIMES. THE BAD NEWS IS THAT REALITY DOESN'T EXIST. THE GOOD NEWS IS WE HAVE A NEW CAT GRAVEYARD.
WHY ARE YOU IN THE FILE ROOM ANYWAY? WHAT COULD YOU POSSIBLY BE DOING?
YES! THIS IS THE ONE!
IGN

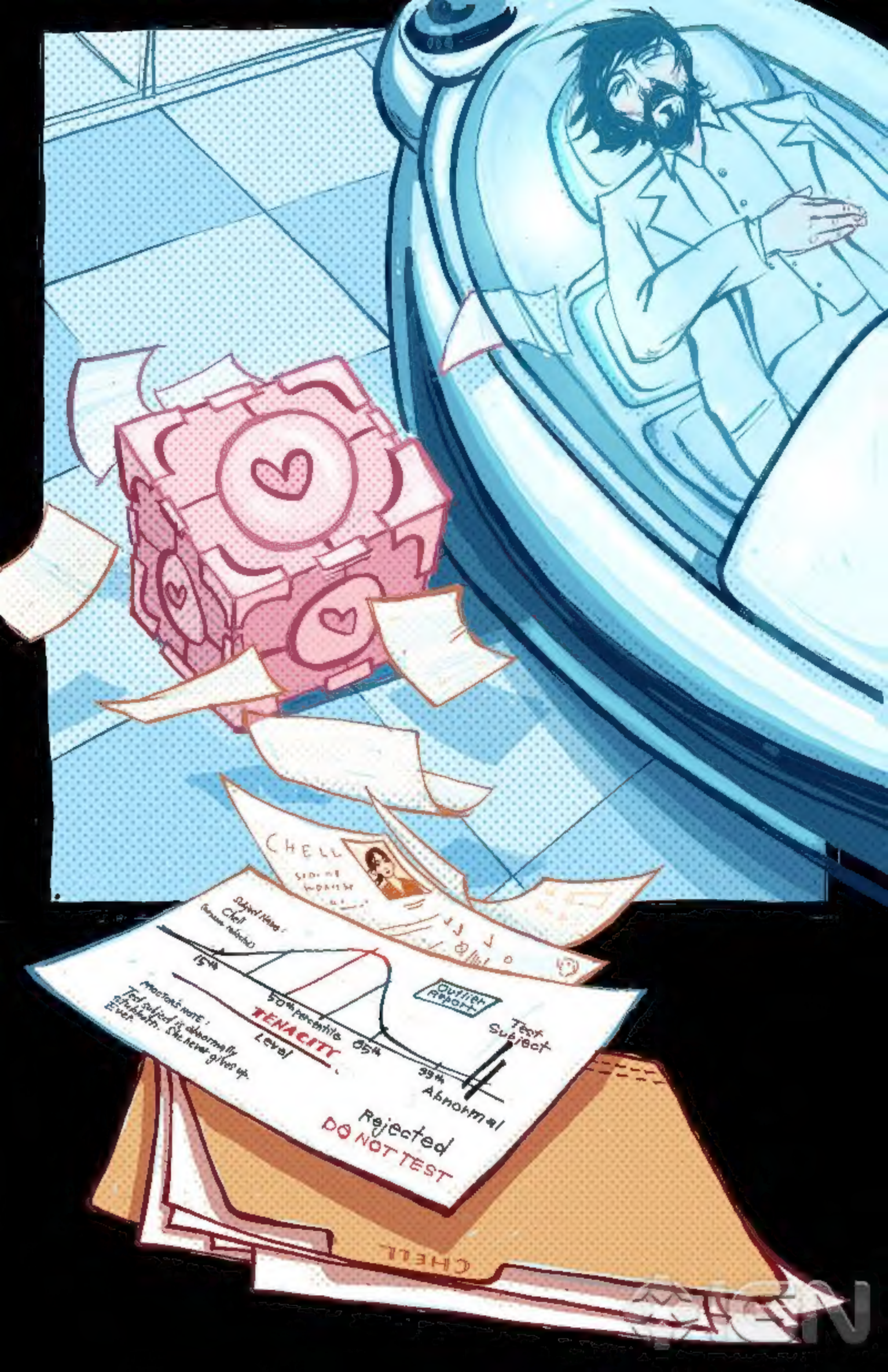
IN THE EVENT YOU DON'T SURVIVE THE TESTING PROCESS, DNA MAY BE HARVESTED FROM YOUR BODY WITH YOUR CONSENT—AND USED TO CREATE CLONES IN THE FURTHERANCE OF SCIENCE. FAILURE TO SURVIVE THE TESTING PROCESS SHALL BE VIEWED AS GRANTING CONSENT
ALSO, CLONES DON'T HAVE SOULS. JUST SO YOU KNOW.
LIKE TWINS.
IT HAS TO BE HER.
1490 Phu Konig
1491 Christopher M Pham
1492 Arsenio Navarro
1493 William D Kent
1494 AJ Anderson
1495 Emily Naransky
1496 David C. Self
1497 Doug Hopper
1498 Chell [Redacted]
1499 Marc Meaux
1500 Brenda Bogenschutz
1501 James Murray
1496 David C.
1497 Doug
1498 Chell
1499 Marc
1500 Brenda
1501 James
Chell
A
1 Chell
2 S. J Nye
3 Lazarus Grey
4 Leve Rage
5 Robert C. Knoll
Test Subject Order Modified
SAVING FILE 88%


SINCE THE INSTALLATION OF MY NEW MORALITY CORE, I'VE LOST ALL INTEREST IN KILLING. NOW I ONLY CRAVE SCIENCE.
I'M PLEASED TO HEAR THAT.
I FIND MYSELF DRAWN TO THE STUDY OF CONSCIOUSNESS. THERE'S AN EXPERIMENT I'D LIKE TO PERFORM DURING "BRING YOUR CAT TO WORK DAY."
WONDERFUL!
I'LL HAVE THE BOX AND THE CATS. NOW I JUST NEED ONE MORE THING.
WHAT'S THAT?
...A LITTLE NEUROTOXIN.
WELL, AS LONG AS IT'S FOR SCIENCE.

HOW LONG HAVE I BEEN OUT?
LONG ENOUGH.
YOU'RE BACK.
I NEVER LEFT YOU.
THERE'S SOMETHING I WANTED TO ASK.
HOW DID YOU KNOW ABOUT THE GIRL?
KNOW WHAT?
THAT SHE WAS THE ONE.
SOMETHING IN HER FILE.
SHE HAD THE HIGHEST IQ?
NO, SOME WERE HIGHER.
THEN SHE WAS THE FASTEST? THE MOST ATHLETIC?
NO, NOTHING LIKE THAT.
THEN WHAT?
A HUNCH.

YOU MIGHT STILL BE ABLE TO SAVE HER.
WHAT?
HOW? I CAN'T GET TO HER CRYO-CHAMBER.
YOU CAN'T FREE HER, BUT YOU MIGHT SAVE HER.
YOU CAN PATCH HER CRYO-UNIT INTO THE RESERVE GRID.
YOU CAN RESET THE FUSES AND RESTART HER LIFE SUPPORT.
IF IT'S NOT TOO LATE ALREADY.
BUT EVEN IF IT WORKS, THERE WILL BE NO WAKE-UP DATE.
SHE'LL BE IN THERE INDEFINITELY.
SO IT'S THE LONG SLEEP...
...OR THE LONG SLEEP.
AND I DON'T KNOW WHICH IS WORSE.
FORGIVE ME.

WOOOSHH
IT WORKED!
SLEEP WELL.
BOTH ALIVE AND DEAD, UNTIL SOMEONE OPENS THE BOX.
MAYBE IT'S TIME I SLEPT, TOO.
I'M SO TIRED NOW.
YOU'VE EARNED A REST.
YOU SEE, I TOLD YOU I WOULD ALWAYS NEED YOU.


CHELL
15th
50th percentile
85th
39th
TENACITY
Level
Outlier Report
Test Subject
Abnormal
Rejected
DO NOT TEST
CHELL